

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2366

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2114

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

IN SINAI

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, HE GAVE ME AN INFORMAL PAPER INDICATING EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN SINAI SINCE 1967.

2. NOTING THAT ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED GROWING INTEREST IN SUCH EXCAVATIONS, FAHMY SAID THEY ARE NOW UNDERTAKING FURTHER EXCAVATIONS IN THE TAL EL-HIMERE AND ZARANEK AREA OF SHIEKH ZUWADE. EGYPTIAN REPORTS INDICATE THAT PURPOSE OF THESE ISRAELI EXCAVATIONS IS A BELIEF THAT THE AREA MAY CONTAIN JEWISH ARTIFACTS THAT WOULD PROVE A PAST JEWISH OCCUPATION OF THE AREA PRIOR TO THE ARABAS.

2. FAHMY WISHED TO REGISTER GOE DISAPPROVAL OF SUCH ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.
EILTS

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